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Trezevant Residents Participate in Passover Seder



Trezevant residents enjoy a Passover Sedar led by Rabbi Micah Greenstein.

At Trezevant, a vibrant senior living community in the heart of Memphis, tradition and community came together in a meaningful way as residents gathered on April 8 to celebrate a traditional Passover Seder, embracing the rich history and symbolism of this cherished Jewish holiday.

The evening was made especially memorable as the Seder was led with warmth, insight and reverence by Rabbi Micah D. Greenstein of Temple Israel. His thoughtful guidance helped bring the story of Passover to life, creating a shared experience that resonated deeply with all in attendance.

Trezevant residents Sherry and Alan Samuels helped organize the Seder

alongside Trezevant staff and clergy.

Residents actively participated throughout the Seder, taking turns reading from the Passover Haggadah, including the recitation of the Four Questions and various readings about the exodus of the Jews from slavery in Egypt. The Seder sparked reflection and connection for participants as they explored the meaning behind each element of the Seder plate, gaining a deeper appreciation for the symbols that tell the story of liberation and renewal.

The celebration also included beloved traditions that brought joy and a sense of playfulness to the evening. Rabbi Micah Greenstein explained the ritual of the Afikomen, a hidden piece of matzah



Trezevant residents Sherry and Alan Samuels (right) helped organize the seder led by Rabbi Micah Greenstein (center) alongside Trezevant staff and clergy (left).



Rabbi Greenstein explains the ritual of the Afikomen (a hidden piece of matzah) to participants at Trezevant's seder.

A traditional Passover meal including matzoh ball soup, thoughtfully prepared, rounded out the evening. From symbolic foods to time-honored recipes, each dish served as a reminder of the enduring customs that define the holiday.

More than just a meal, the Seder at Trezevant was a celebration of faith, heritage and togetherness. Through shared readings, music and storytelling, residents honored the enduring spirit of Passover, creating new memories while preserving traditions that have been passed down for generations.

"It was the most wonderful night," said Trezevant resident Jeannette Birge. "I think we were all filled with joy."

Located in the heart of Memphis at 177 North Highland, Trezevant is a continuing care retirement community offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, adult day services, and health and rehabilitation services.

For more information on Trezevant, call 901.325.4000 or visit www.trezevantmanor.org. [HW](#)

and, later, all residents joined together in song, filling the room with familiar melodies like "Dayenu" and "Go Down Moses (Let My People Go)."

Calling all Past Camp Barney Medintz Campers



Past campers Nathan Franklin, Reed Billings and Mark Egerman.

Camp Barney Medintz is turning 65, and we are kicking off with a celebration in Memphis. The event takes place on April 27 at 7 p.m. at the Memphis Jewish Community Cent in the Belz Social Hall.

Join us for a special reunion honoring the memories, friendships and traditions that have made Camp Barney such a be-

loved part of so many lives.

Longtime director Jim Mittenthal will be there alongside Executive Director Danny Herz for an unforgettable evening of camp stories, connection, celebration and fireside chat. Guests will also get a special exclusive never-before-seen first look at the trailer for the new documentary film being made



Past campers Mallory Moskowitz, Melanie Baum, Margo Libby Franklin, Zoe Carvel and Samantha Notowich.

for the 65th anniversary. The film captures the impact of Jewish overnight camp through the voices and stories of campers, staff and directors both past and present. Memphis will be the very first stop on a series of gatherings where we'll come together, reconnect and get an exclusive first look at the trailer for

the film "A MILLION TOMORROWS" before it is released to the public.

For more than six decades, Camp Barney has been more than a camp – it has been a home, a tradition, and a bond that lasts forever. Come be part of a truly special night as we celebrate the past and look toward the future. [HW](#)

Masks in a Time of War



Nava VanderWalde (right) and her friend, Sapphire, who created Purim costumes from the kibbutz costume closet.
By Nava VanderWalde

We weren't supposed to be there for Purim. Our plan had been simple: leave the kibbutz Sunday afternoon, head back to Jerusalem, and celebrate the way we had imagined and planned – together on campus, structured, familiar. But plans don't mean much during war. The sirens started Saturday morning. At first, they felt surreal – like something distant, something we were warned about but didn't think would actually happen. But the sirens kept coming, randomly and unpredictable. Sometimes in the middle of prayer. The sound would cut through everything, and for a moment, nothing else existed but the question "Where do we go? How much time do we have?"

My name is Nava VanderWalde and I had an amazing opportunity to go on a high school in Israel semester program called Tichon Ramah Yerushalayim. Part of this program is going on tiyulim (fieldtrips) where we get to learn about the history of the land of Israel and its culture. One of the most anticipated trips is the kibbutz trip to the south, where we don't have to take notes and we can just have fun going snorkeling, hiking, exploring the sand dunes, and getting more bonding time with friends. The war started on Shabbat, and suddenly, the trip wasn't a carefree reset that it was supposed to be. We had to learn how to adapt to the sudden changes in the world. And Purim was coming. As part of my role on the student council, our job was to plan Purim. We quickly felt the shift. Purim programming wasn't going to happen on campus in Jerusalem anymore – it was on us. The pressure was set as I could see everyone

was on the edge, sleep-deprived, and constantly calculating. What if there's a siren? Before a shower, before going to sleep, before walking back from a movie night under a sky that didn't always feel safe, before doing anything, you always had to plan for there to be a siren. But everyone knew that normal life couldn't stop. And so, the Purim preparations began. We spoke to the kibbutz leaders, who opened a shared costume closet to us (mostly children's costumes, mismatched and worn, but full of possibility). With only a handful of clothes each, as we had only packed for 4 days, we pieced together outfits from whatever we could find. We even made it a dress-to-impress competition to see who could be the most creative with what we had. It wasn't polished or planned, but it brought joy and activeness to everyone who needed some happiness. I also choreographed a group dance to the song, "Circus," by Britney Spears. Others stepped in where they could. Bit by bit, stress turned into movement, into laughter, into something that helped us connect and bond.

And somehow, Purim happened! We gathered. We read Megillah. I read Torah. There was music, a dance party, and a costume contest built from scraps and creativity. For a few hours, the fear and stress didn't disappear – but it loosened its grip.

It's hard to explain the mindset of living through war. It's not constant panic. It's something quieter, more persistent that affects every action and thought. A background calculation that never turns off. You learn to live alongside it. And

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4/23/2026

Memphis Candlelighting Time

Erev Shabbat, Fri. April 24, 2026 / 7 Iyar, 57867:22 p.m.
Havdalah, Sat. April 25, 2026 / 8 Iyar, 5786 8:20 p.m.
Weekly Torah Portion: Acharei-Kedoshim

yet, on Purim, we also lived alongside joy and community.
In the Megillat Esther, everything teeters on the edge of destruction – until it doesn't. The world flips upside down. Fear turns into celebration. As it says, "The Jews had light and gladness, joy and honor" (Esther 8:16). A moment of complete reversal. That's what it felt

like, in our own small way.
We stayed on Kibbutz Kturah way longer than expected. Then we moved through the south, to Sde Boker and the Dead Sea (Thanks MASA!) before returning to Jerusalem two weeks later. The war reshaped everything, stretching time, and changing plans. But that Purim stayed with me. Not because it was perfect (it wasn't). Not because it was easy (it definitely wasn't) but because, in the middle of fear, we created something joyful anyway. We wore mismatched costumes, danced, read and showed up for each other. And for a few hours, the world didn't just feel like it was falling apart. It felt like it had turned, just slightly, in our favor. HW



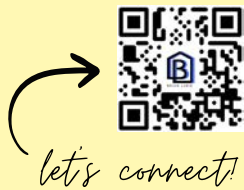
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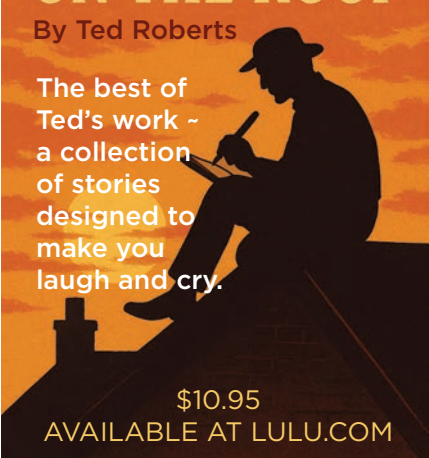
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Ohio Restaurant Cancels Gubernatorial Candidate’s Event Over ‘Pro-Nazi Opinions’

(JNS) – An Ohio restaurant canceled a campaign event for Republican gubernatorial candidate Casey Putsch after citing his past remarks about Nazis, prompting him to relocate the rally to a “secret location.”

The Wielezynski family, owners of La Chatelaine French Bakery & Bistro, stated last Wednesday that they withdrew from hosting the April 17 event at its Worthington location after learning of statements Putsch had made about Adolf Hitler, Nazis and the Holocaust.

“We unequivocally denounce those who express pro-Nazi opinions and beliefs and will not host individuals who are at odds with our stance,” the family said, noting their roots in Poland, France and Belgium and relatives who suffered under Nazi persecution.

“We acknowledge we should have more carefully researched him and his campaign before agreeing to host this event,” the owners stated. “We sincerely apologize for this oversight.”

Putsch, a northwest Ohio entrepreneur known online as “Casey the Car Guy,” is running in the Republican primary for governor alongside Vivek Ramaswamy and Heather Hill. The winner is expected to face Amy Acton, the Democratic candidate, in November.

The controversy follows criticism of Putsch’s campaign messaging, including promotion of an April 9 “beer hall rally” in Toledo – a name widely

viewed as a reference to the 1923 Beer Hall Putsch, Adolf Hitler’s failed coup attempt in Munich.

“Drive your German car to the brewery and Beer Hall Rally, and I’ll buy you a beer,” he wrote. “It’s okay if it rains. German cars don’t rust like Italian, Japanese or British. And who drives a Russian or Israeli car anyway?”

After the cancellation, Putsch said the event was called off “due to extreme harassment from the left and Vivek shills,” adding that he relocated it “to protect the French restaurant owners.”

He has denied Nazi sympathies, but has drawn scrutiny for past comments about Hitler, rhetoric targeting Israel and Jewish figures and received support from white nationalist podcaster Nick Fuentes.

“The Israel conundrum has become all too clear to everybody,” Putsch said during an appearance on “The Amy Dangerfield Show.”

“We’re all tired of the silly names they call all of us when we want to criticize something that’s obviously wrong for America, wrong for the world, and frankly just evil actions while using a religion as a shield and propagandizing Americans and Christians into thinking it’s okay,” he said.

At a March 21 rally, he said of the Iran war, “Israel. That’s why we’re there,” pledging to pull Ohio investments in Israel bonds if he becomes governor. **HW**

The MJCC Larisa and Ben Baer Senior Adult Club Happenings

Food, Friends, and Fun: A Special Week at the MJCC Senior Adult Club
The regular lunch program begins at 11:30 a.m., with speaker and entertainment programs starting at noon.

Monday, April 27

Please note a schedule change: Team Trivial Pursuit has been rescheduled to May 6.

In its place, **Kevin Payne will present “Brain and Cognitive Help.”** Kevin, who works with Humana and specializes in the senior population, will discuss a topic of great interest to many older adults. One of the most common concerns among seniors is maintaining cognitive ability. Kevin will focus on practical ways individuals can support and improve brain health.

There is no charge for this program. Reservations are requested.

Wednesday, April 29

Our speaker will be Sherry Harbur, presenting one of her always informative talks, **“Supporting Seniors with Knowledge and Care.”**

Sherry’s previous presentation was very well received, and this important topic is one that should not be missed. Many families make senior living decisions during times of crisis – this talk will help participants stay ahead of the curve and maintain control over their choices. It is ideal for both seniors and their families.

Reservations are not required but are suggested, as seating is limited.

Monday, May 4

Rabbi Ian Lichter, Senior Rabbi of Baron Hirsch Congregation, will present **“The Secrets of Lag BaOmer!”**

Lag BaOmer is a joyful Jewish holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer, which falls on May 5 this year. It marks a break in the semi-mourning period between Passover and Shavuot. Rabbi Lichter will explore the meaning and traditions of the holiday and will also answer questions about Lag BaOmer and the Counting of the Omer. His talks are always engaging, informative, and well received.

Wednesday, May 6

Our popular Team Trivial Pursuit returns after being postponed from April 27.

Participants will be divided into teams for a lively and friendly competition. Questions will fly, excitement will build, and you may be surprised by how much you know! Often, those who least expect it provide the winning answers. Special prizes will be awarded.

Bring your friends, enjoy a great lunch, and get ready for an afternoon of laughter and fun. If you would like to attend just the Trivial Pursuit portion, you are welcome to do so.

Please join us Monday through Friday for a delicious kosher lunch prepared by the kitchens at the Memphis Jewish Home. The cost is only \$2 for seniors. Reservations are required by 1 p.m. the day before.

To make a reservation, please contact Steve Kaplan, Adult Services Coordinator, at 901-259-9220 or email stevekaplan@jccmemphis.org.

Steve is available Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. You may also call the front desk at 901-761-0810. **HW**

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Undeterred By War, North American Jews Continue to Immigrate to Israel



New immigrants from North America arrive at Israel’s Ben-Gurion Airport on March 25, 2026. Credit: Yonit Schiller

By Peter Ephross

(JTA) — Mordechai Deluca never considered delaying his move to Israel from the United States because of the war with Iran. If anything, the opposite is true.

“My worry was, how could I get there as fast as possible?” said Deluca, 39, who arrived in Israel on March 9, just eight days after the war with Iran began.

Deluca, who grew up in North Carolina, said that being physically present in Israel during such a crucial time was important to him. He spent last year’s war between Israel and Iran in Washington, D.C., and “being so far away made me feel so much more powerless,” he said.

Deluca had first thought about making aliyah, or immigrating to Israel, after he went on a Birthright Israel trip 20 years ago. His desire intensified after Oct. 7, which he spent in Israel, and where he attended a funeral for a lone

soldier who didn’t have immediate family in the country.

Hearing about the soldier’s sacrifice and watching Israelis rally around each other, Deluca was deeply moved. “I couldn’t imagine just going back to D.C. and passively thinking about aliyah,” he said.

Coping with a war might not be how Deluca imagined his first few weeks living permanently in Israel, but it’s led to some unexpectedly meaningful moments. He just started a new job, and he’s found some unique opportunities to connect with his colleagues — like during a recent day in the office, when he found himself taking shelter with his co-workers.

“It was an easy way to meet people,” Deluca said.

Deluca’s attitude mirrors those of other olim (immigrants) who have re-

cently moved to Israel or are planning to do so later this year: Their desire to live in Israel, and experience the unique spirit and resilience of Israeli society, is strong. For some, their hunger to be with their fellow Jews during the war with Iran gives them an additional push.

According to data from Nefesh B’Nefesh, an organization that facilitates aliyah from North America, more than 130 new immigrants have arrived in Israel from North America since the beginning of the war with Iran. They are among the approximately 500 North Americans who have moved to Israel since the start of 2026, and some 110 new arrivals are expected in April. Additionally, since the start of the Iran war, more than 830 aliyah applications have been opened by Jewish North Americans.

“Aliyah from North America has remained remarkably steady over the last decade, with annual numbers ranging between 3,500 and 4,000,” said Yael Katsman, vice president of communications at Nefesh B’Nefesh. “While this baseline has been steady, we’ve seen periods of acceleration, first during COVID in 2021 and more recently in 2025, following the onset of the war.”

While logistical challenges and flight restrictions due to the conflict with Iran have added complexity, they haven’t stopped people from making the move. Just last month, on March 25, a group aliyah flight of 25 new immigrants from North America landed at Ben-Gurion Airport — the youngest was 21 years old while the oldest was 96. These new immigrants made aliyah with the assistance of Nefesh B’Nefesh, in cooperation with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and Jewish National Fund-USA.

“It reminds me of Israel’s pioneers,” said Katsman, regarding Israel’s newest immigrants, who are undeterred by the current conflict. “They want to be part of something bigger.”

More than half of the North Americans who have made aliyah to Israel this year are in the 19-35 age range, Katsman added.

Elizabeth W., a 23-year-old New York City native, who asked that her last name not be used in the story for privacy reasons, is one of these young new immigrants. Like Deluca, she also made aliyah last month.

Just a day before she got on a plane to arrive in Israel in March, she stated, “I knew that there would be some sort of war. But it wasn’t a deterrent.”

Of course, young people are not the only North American Jews making ali-

yah at this challenging time. Families are making the move as well.

Elana L., who also asked that her last name not be used for privacy reasons, is planning to move to Israel from Los Angeles this summer with her family — war notwithstanding. “We belong there,” she said. “Those are my people who are fighting and united and supporting each other.”

Elana’s decision to make aliyah began to take shape after Oct. 7, a moment that prompted her to reflect more deeply on where she wanted to build her family’s future. As a mother of redheaded children, the plight of the Bibas family resonated deeply with her. She felt a strong pull toward Israel and a desire to be a part of the country’s story. In November 2023, Elana opened an aliyah application with Nefesh B’Nefesh.

Unsurprisingly, many of the recent and potential olim have strong ties to Israel. Both Elizabeth W. and Elana L. have family in the country — in Elana’s case, much of her family is planning to live in Israel by the end of the year. Deluca, meanwhile, has returned to Israel 11 times since his first trip two decades ago.

Nonetheless, like all immigrants, the new olim will be leaving family and friends in the United States. They admit their loved ones have voiced concern — but not shock.

“My family and friends have heard me talk about making aliyah for 20 years, so they were not surprised,” Deluca said. “They didn’t think I would cancel.”

As Deluca put it, the reality on the ground can feel more ordinary than people in North America might expect — even amid ongoing conflict, Israeli society maintains a sense of everyday routine. “I tell people I’m at Ikea,” he said. “When there’s a siren, you go into a bomb shelter and then you come out and continue.”

This article was sponsored by and produced in partnership with Nefesh B’Nefesh. Founded in 2002, Nefesh B’Nefesh is dedicated to addressing the evolving national needs of the State of Israel through four key pillars: aliyah, national service, national development and Zionist education. In partnership with Israel’s Ministry of Aliyah and Integration, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael and JNF-USA, Nefesh B’Nefesh’s comprehensive support and social services have helped over 95,000 North American olim to integrate into Israeli society. This article was produced by JTA’s native content team. **HW**

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Far-Right Polish Lawmaker Draws Outrage After Calling Israel the ‘New Third Reich’



“Israel is the new Third Reich, and its flag should look exactly like this,” Konrad Berkowicz said as he unfurled the flag in parliament. (Screenshot via X)

By Joseph Strauss

(JTA) – A far-right Polish lawmaker sparked outrage last Tuesday when, while speaking in parliament, he displayed a modified Israeli flag that replaced the Star of David with a blue swastika and called Israel “the new Third Reich.”

“Israel is committing genocide before our eyes with particular cruelty,” said Konrad Berkowicz, vice chairman of Poland’s far-right New Hope party, according to Polish Radio.

As he unfurled the altered flag he said, “Israel is the new Third Reich, and its flag should look exactly like this.”

Berkowicz’s stunt – which occurred on Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day – was immediately rebuked by Włodzimierz Czarzasty, who is the speaker of the Sejm, or the lower house of the Polish parliament, saying that “displaying a swastika in the Polish parliament can in no way be justified.”

The incident drew strong condemnations from Polish Jewish leaders.

Patrycja Dołowy, former head of JCC Warsaw and president of the Mispucha Foundation, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Berkowicz committed a “very, very awful but also stupid act.” She also noted that Berkowicz’s goal “was to get more publicity and to be shown everywhere,” and said it would therefore be “better not to comment on this very widely and not to talk about it.”

Dołowy pointed out that public displays of swastikas, and connecting the swastika with a country, is forbidden under Poland’s criminal law code.

“This is something that should be charged. And maybe he should be in prison,” she said.

In a joint statement, Dariusz Stola, director of the Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and Piotr Wiślicki, the Jewish Historical Institute’s chairman of the board, called for “the prosecutor’s office to take decisive steps to punish the politician whose actions – in front of all of Poland and the world – insulted the Polish Parliament.”

“There can be no consent or tolerance for such acts,” the statement continued.

Czarzasty has said he would ask the Sejm’s leadership body to impose a financial penalty on Berkowicz and analyze whether further legal action could be taken.

The Israeli foreign ministry wrote online that it “is hard to imagine a lower depth of contempt towards the Holocaust than this revolting act.”

Meanwhile, Poland’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs wrote on X that it “strongly condemns” Berkowicz’s use of the swastika on the Israeli flag.

“Criticism of Israel’s regional policy by the MP does not justify such a gesture, which is deeply offensive not only to Jews and Israelis, but also to all those for whom the Holocaust and other Nazi crimes constitute an important element of memory and identity,” the ministry’s statement read.

This was not Berkowicz’s first time making headlines with a public demonstration related to Jews.

In 2019, during a televised debate, he slipped a kippah on his opponent’s head while she was talking.

A popular slogan among his party’s supporters at the time of that election was “Poland, not Polin,” a reference to the country’s name in Hebrew.

The Social and Cultural Association of Jews in Poland wrote that Berkowicz’s actions were “particularly worrying” because it “was not the first incident of its kind.” Its statement pointed to the recent Sejm tenure of Grzegorz Braun, the antisemitic provocateur who denied that gas chambers were used at Auschwitz and used a fire extinguisher to put out the candles of a menorah in the country’s parliament building.

“The line between words and actual actions can be very thin,” the association wrote. “How many more of these situations have to happen before someone says ‘enough?’” **HW**

New Course Explores What It Really Means to Be a “Light Unto the Nations”

Four-week course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute examines Judaism’s universal moral message - and why it matters now more than ever.



Rabbi Levi Klein

Most Jews have heard that Judaism has something meaningful to offer the world. The book of Isaiah famously describes the Jewish people as a “light unto the nations.” But ask the average person what that actually means – what specific message Judaism is meant to share – and you’ll often be met with a long pause.

A new four-part course from the Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI) aims to change that.

For All Humankind, launching April 29 at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life in Memphis, explores a dimension of Judaism that many have never formally studied: its outward-facing moral vision for all of humanity.

“There’s an entire side of Judaism that even committed Jews often don’t fully know,” says Rabbi Levi Klein, who will be teaching the course. “We understand how to live as Jews – Shabbat, holidays, lifecycle events. But Judaism also carries a clear moral message intended for all people. This course finally unpacks what that message is.”

What the Course Covers

Across four sessions, participants will explore seven foundational values that

Judaism has upheld since before Mount Sinai – principles meant not only for Jews, but for all humanity. The course traces these ideas from Abraham’s earliest teachings through their relevance today, addressing questions such as: What defines right and wrong? What is the purpose of education? Do our individual moral choices contribute to something greater?

Scholarly Endorsements

Julie Ne’eman Arad, PhD, of Ben-Gurion University’s Department of Jewish History, describes the course as “an eye-opener for many Jews about their past, present, and future place in the world.”

Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter, Professor of Jewish History and Jewish Thought at Yeshiva University, calls it “wise, learned, and sophisticated,” noting that it addresses “one of the most foundational issues confronting not only Jews, but all who seek to understand the core values of contemporary society.”

Why Now?

At a time when Jewish identity faces growing pressure from the outside – and deeper questions from within – the course offers a clear and positive response to a central question: Why does being Jewish matter?

“After this course,” Rabbi Klein says, “when someone asks you – at the office, at a dinner, or even at your own kitchen table – what Judaism stands for, you’ll have a clear, confident answer. And it’s one you’ll be proud to share.”

All are welcome, and no prior knowledge is necessary.

The course will run for four consecutive Wednesdays beginning April 29, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Chabad Center for Jewish Life. For more information or to register, call 901-754-0404 or visit www.JewishMemphis.com/JLI. Courses in Memphis are presented in conjunction with Chabad of Tennessee. **HW**



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In Major Shift, All but 7 Senate Democrats Vote to Block Weapons Sales to Israel



Ruben Gallego and Elissa Slotkin, seen here during a hearing in March 2026, were among the U.S. senators who newly voted to block weapons sales to Israel on April 15, 2026. Credit: Tom Williams/CQ-Roll Call, Inc via Getty Images)

By Philissa Cramer

(JTA) – A record number of Senate Democrats voted last Wednesday to block the sales of certain weapons to Israel, marking a sharp rise in the number of senators backing the move.

Last Wednesday was the third time in as many years that the Senate voted on resolutions to limit weapons sales to Israel, introduced and promoted by the Vermont independent and progressive leader Bernie Sanders.

In 2024, 19 Democrats voted for at least one of the “Block the Bombs” resolutions on the table at the time. Last year, 24 senators endorsed the move.

Now, 40 senators – all but seven Democrats – voted for at least one of the two resolutions they faced last Wednesday, more than doubling the support in two years. The new backers include several Jewish moderates who describe themselves as pro-Israel as well as multiple

senators who are seen as likely 2028 presidential candidates.

“I have struggled with these Joint Resolutions of Disapproval as much as any vote since I joined Congress,” said Sen. Elissa Slotkin, a moderate from Michigan, in a statement calling the issue of support for Israel “raw, painful and personal.”

“My entire life, I have been – and continue to be – a strong supporter of a Jewish and democratic State of Israel. The people of Israel, like all people throughout the region, deserve long-term security and peace,” Slotkin said. “But being pro-Israel today is not about simply supporting the political or military agenda of Prime Minister Netanyahu, just like being pro-American should not be equated with loyalty to President Trump.”

All three measures fell short in the Republican-led Senate. Still, the vote on the weapons sales resolution in particu-

lar offered a powerful demonstration of shifting sentiment in the party about Israel. A survey released last week found that 80% of Democratic voters hold an unfavorable view of Israel, up sharply over the last three years. The findings correlate with a growing number of polls showing rising opposition to Israel in both parties, with a steeper rise among Democrats.

In addition to Slotkin, three other Jewish senators voted to block the sale of bombs for the first time: Adam Schiff of California, Ron Wyden of Oregon and Jon Ossoff of Georgia.

Mark Kelly of Arizona, who is seen as a likely presidential contender and is married to the Jewish former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, said in a speech on the Senate floor that he “cannot and will never abandon Israel” but was voting to stop the weapons transfers because he opposes “the reckless decisions being made by Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Trump.”

Along with Kelly, Ossoff and Slotkin, two other possible presidential candidates also newly voted against weapons sales to Israel: Cory Booker of New Jersey and Ruben Gallego of Arizona. (Both have Jewish family members.)

Senate Democrats also voted as a bloc to restrict President Donald Trump’s ability to continue the war against Iran, which he launched jointly with Israel in February without congressional approval. Trump entered a ceasefire the week prior without achieving the varying goals he had outlined.

The weapons resolutions would have blocked the sale of D-9 bulldozers,

widely used in military operations, and 1,000-bombs to Israel, while not affecting the sale of smaller and defensive munitions. Four senators who voted to block the bulldozer sales voted not to block the bomb sales.

Jewish critics of the war and the Israeli government applauded the votes.

“It’s encouraging to see a growing number of senators recognize that unconditional US military support for Israel is no longer tenable in light of the Netanyahu government’s policies,” Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, which this week came out against U.S. support for Israel’s defensive systems for the first time.

Morriah Kaplan, executive director of the progressive group IfNotNow, said the vote represented “a powerful step toward shared safety” in the Middle East and a bellwether of change in the United States.

“Establishment Jewish institutions will spend the next week writing angry letters to the Senators who voted ‘yes’ and trying to convince U.S. Jews that these politicians are putting our community in danger,” Kaplan said. “But our community is no longer falling for the disastrous lie that our safety will come through bombs, bulldozers, walls, or repression.”

There was little sign of immediate public condemnation by the Jewish groups that historically have taken aim at lawmakers who vote against support for Israel. Following the votes, the American Jewish Committee tweeted only, “Thank you to the Senators who continue to stand by Israel as it continues to face ongoing terror threats on multiple fronts.” **HW**



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Israel, Lebanon Agree to 10-Day Truce, Trump Says



U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio joins working-level peace talks with Israeli Ambassador to the United States Yechiel Leiter and Lebanese Ambassador to the United States Nada Hamadeh Moawad at the Department of State in Washington, D.C., April 14, 2026. Credit: Freddie Everett/U.S. State Department.

By Andrew Bernard

(JNS) – U.S. President Donald Trump announced last Thursday that Israel and Lebanon agreed to a ceasefire following

phone calls that he held with the leaders of both countries. “I just had excellent conversations

with the highly respected President Joseph Aoun, of Lebanon, and Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, of Israel,” Trump wrote. “These two leaders have agreed that in order to achieve peace between their countries, they will formally begin a 10-day ceasefire at 5 p.m. Eastern Standard Time.”

Trump wrote in a followup post that he would invite Aoun and Netanyahu to the White House for “meaningful talks.”

Neither the Israeli prime minister’s office nor the Lebanese presidency has confirmed the ceasefire agreement. Israeli media reported after Trump made

the ceasefire announcement that the Israeli cabinet has yet to meet to hold a vote on a potential truce.

The Lebanese readout of the call between Aoun and Trump said that Trump emphasized his “commitment to meeting the Lebanese request for a ceasefire at the earliest possible time” but did not mention a specific timeline.

Last Wednesday, Trump announced that Netanyahu and Aoun would hold a direct telephone call. The Associated Press and other media outlets reported that Aoun refused to speak with Netanyahu directly and that call does not appear to have taken place. [HW](#)

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Provided by Mike Stein, Managing Director - Investments, Wells Fargo Advisors
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Picture this: You’ve just won the lottery or received a large inheritance. You start daydreaming about all the wonderful things you’ll buy, the vacations you’ll take, and not having to worry so much about money.

If only it was that simple to live on Easy Street. The truth of the matter is if you don’t properly plan on how to receive your windfall and invest it wisely, you could instead find yourself on the road to financial disaster.

If by chance you become an overnight millionaire, you might want to consider the following before you quit your day job or buy that new luxury car.

Consider taking winnings in a lump sum

If you’re disciplined enough not to spend the money all at once, you may want to consider taking it all in a lump sum. Typically, receiving your winnings this way will give you more money in the end than if you were to get payments over a number of years.

For example, if you receive \$1 million and pay half of that in taxes, you’ll end up with \$500,000 to invest. At a hypothetical 10% rate of return, your winnings would have the opportunity to grow to more than \$3.3 million in 20 years. By comparison, if you chose to

receive your windfall in 20 annual installments of \$50,000 and invest each year at that same 10%, you would end up with approximately \$2.8 million – a difference of more than \$500,000.*

The more money you can get invested right away, the better off you could be. Keep in mind this example is for illustrative purposes only and does not reflect the performance of any specific investment. There is no guarantee you would be able to obtain a consistent rate of return.

The installment option may be better if you’re a spendthrift

On the other hand, if having an account with a lot of money in it is too tempting for you to handle, you may want to take your fortune over a period of several years. You may not have this option with every type of windfall, but if you happen to win the lottery, the sponsor may invest your winnings for you. You may get a better rate of return by taking the money in a lump sum, but that’s no use if you end up spending all of it without planning.

Keep income taxes in mind

A significant amount of what you win or inherit will likely go to pay federal and state income taxes. And remember, a multimillion dollar payout in 2025

would put you in the highest federal tax bracket at 37%. If you also have to pay state income taxes, you may end up losing half of your money to taxes.

In cases where winning lottery tickets are purchased outside your home state, it’s possible that you would be taxed in your home state and the state where you purchased the ticket. Careful tax planning may help you keep as much of the money as possible.

What happens when you die?

Not surprisingly, federal estate tax laws are complicated. That being said, here are a couple things to keep in mind:

- If you’re married, the money from your winnings or inheritance – no matter how much – may be passed to your spouse free from federal estate taxes.
- If you die in 2025 and your estate is worth \$13,990,000 or more, your heirs could incur federal estate taxes.

You need to discuss the possible implications of federal estate taxes and how to plan for them with an estate planning attorney.

*The \$50,000 annual installment in this example does not take into account any income taxes. Gross amount is being invested to achieve the projected future value. Example also assumes investments are growing without annual

taxes on the earnings.

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Temple Israel Rabbi Criticizes Michigan Senate Candidate for ‘Offensive’ Remarks about Attack

By Andrew Lapin

(JTA) – A rabbi at Temple Israel in West Bloomfield, Michigan, has publicly chastised a candidate for U.S. Senate in her state who grew up near the temple, for what she said was an “offensive” response to the recent attack on her synagogue.

Rabbi Jen Lader criticized Abdul El-Sayed, a physician and former county health executive, for “suggesting that violence against a synagogue in suburban Detroit could be understood through the lens of Israeli actions.”

Lader’s op-ed, published last Friday in The Free Press, marked an instance of a rabbi publicly opposing a specific political candidate – a once-rare occurrence that has become more normalized. It came days after El-Sayed, who is taking the left flank in a close three-way primary for an open seat, held two rallies with left-wing streamer Hasan Piker, whom some Jewish leaders have accused of antisemitism for his harsh commentary on Israel and Zionism.

Lader’s commentary didn’t mention Piker or the recent rallies. Instead, the rabbi parsed two statements El-Sayed had made following the Temple Israel attack last month: an initial statement condemning antisemitism, which she commended, and lengthy follow-up remarks that also discussed Israel’s war in Lebanon, where the attacker’s brother was killed. (The FBI has concluded that the Temple Israel attacker, who drove a car filled with fireworks into the building during a preschool session before shooting himself, was “Hezbollah-inspired.”)

El-Sayed’s second statement, the rabbi said, was “offensive” and undermined the first.

“Michigan’s Jews are not abstractions

or stand-ins for a foreign government,” Lader wrote in a piece with the headline “The Two Faces of Abdul El-Sayed.”

“We are a local community of families who gather to pray, to learn, to celebrate, and to mourn together,” she added. “When we are violently attacked, it is not an understandable reaction to personal loss. It is antisemitic hatred directed at Jews wherever we are.”

After this story’s initial publication, El-Sayed’s campaign responded to the letter with the following statement: “Abdul has always been clear that he stands against antisemitism in all its forms. That’s why he condemned the horrific attack on Temple Israel immediately – and will continue to stand up against attacks against Jewish people, Jewish institutions, and Judaism.”

The candidate has repeatedly defended his decision to invoke Israel’s war in his statement on the attack, including when he spoke to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency following his rallies last week.

“Many of my friends growing up worshipped at Temple Israel. Nothing justifies the heinous attack that we saw on Temple Israel,” El-Sayed told JTA last Tuesday. “I also think it’s just critical for us to understand that hurt people do hurt people, and the circumstances happening 6,000 miles away can affect the lives that we live here.”

He continued, “I think some people tried to quote that out of context, and I understand that’s how politics works. I’m not here to defend myself, but I will tell you this: I will always stand up to defend my Jewish sisters and brothers who are fighting for an equal right to be who they are, to express their beautiful faith in the way that I choose to express mine.” **HW**

OBITUARIES

Lawrence E. Baer

Lawrence E. Baer, age 80, of Memphis, Tennessee, passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2026. Born on September 7, 1945, in Chico, California, Larry grew up in Memphis, where he would spend his life building a beautiful family, a career, and a community rooted in love and dedication.

Larry graduated from Memphis State University and went on to earn his law degree from Memphis State University School of Law. In 1971, he began practicing law at the Baer Law Firm, the family practice founded by his loving father, the late Isadore Baer. Larry knew he wanted to practice law for as long as he could remember. He followed his father’s advice to “respect each attorney you try a case against; you can learn something from even the greenest among them”; his guiding philosophy was to do what’s right and correct what’s wrong. Larry carried on that legacy with pride for more than 50 years, earning the deep respect of his colleagues and clients throughout the Memphis legal community.

Larry was a member of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association, the Tennessee Bar Association, the American Association for Justice, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He was recognized as an authority on landlord-tenant law and frequently spoke on related issues for community and professional organizations. Larry was listed in the Civil Trial Practice section of the Bar Register of Preeminent Lawyers.

Larry had a larger-than-life personality that filled every room and courtroom, he walked into. He dominated the courtroom to the delight of his clients, and sometimes the ire of, but more often the admiration of the judge. He was known for his sense of humor and quick wit, always with an underlying warmth. Anyone who met him likely heard him introduce himself as Tony Soprano – a

bit that never failed to get a laugh.

Larry proudly served his country in the United States Army Reserves for six years. He was also a devoted member of Congregation Anshei Sphard, where he served on the board of directors.

An avid gardener, Larry found peace and joy in his backyard, tending to his garden and caring for the animals he loved. His home was alive with the presence of fish in his koi pond, chickens, birds, turtles, and even a goat at one time. His love for nature and animals was a reflection of his gentle and generous spirit.

Above all else, Larry cherished his family. He loved and adored his wife of 46 years, who remained at his side throughout his last difficult years. His greatest joy was spending time at home with his wife, children and grandchildren. His grandchildren were his pride and joy. They enjoyed their long car rides searching for turtles with “Grandpa,” their Saturday trips to Micco’s for snow cones, or just hanging out at home. Whether gathered around the table, working in the yard, watching wrestling on television or simply enjoying each other’s company, Larry was happiest surrounded by the people he loved most.

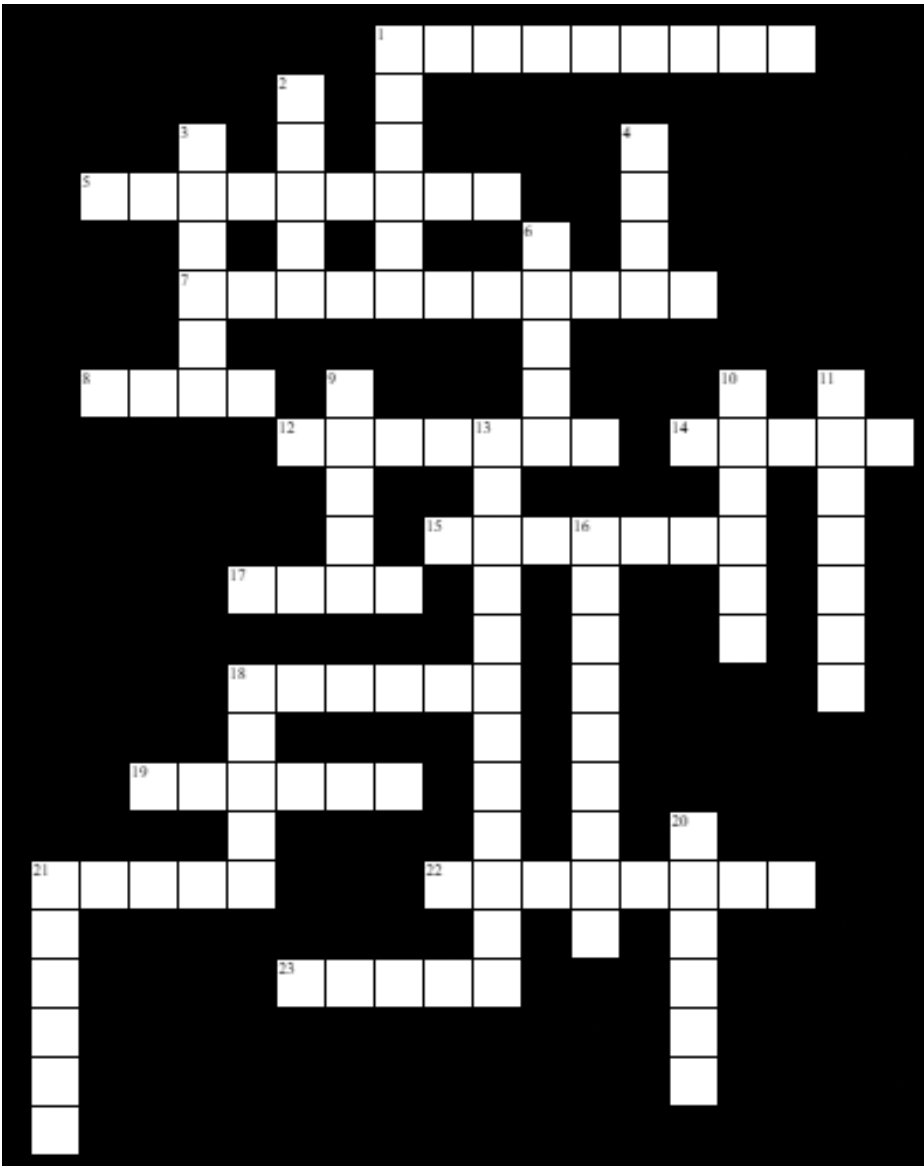
The family wishes to thank caregivers at the Belmont, Ashley, Jerese and Laquita, as well as Champagne, Essence, Freda and Miangel. We appreciate the help and support they provided.

Larry is survived by his beloved wife, Jenny Jacobson Baer; his children, Brian Baer (Carolina), Lindsay Baer Califf (Brian), Catherine Baer (Mitch Ergas), and Jonathan Baer (Toby); and six grandchildren, Zachary, Samantha, Eli, Zoe, Alex and Dov.

Funeral services were held at Temple Israel Cemetery on Tuesday, April 14.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer’s Association or the charity of your choice in Larry’s memory. **HW**

Crossword Answers Page 10



FAMOUS JEWISH ENTERTAINERS

By Erwin Williamson©

ACROSS

- 1 Simon & _____
- 5 Jaws director Steven
- 7 can’t get no respect
- 8 Indiana Jones Harrison
- 12 The Graduate, Rainman, Tootsie
- 14 _____ & Garfunkel songwriter Leonard
- 15 Billy of SNL
- 17 You’ve Got a Friend singer Carole
- 18 Debra from Terms of Endearment
- 19 Blazing Saddles director Mel
- 21 Classic 40s radio host Jack
- 22 Kramer’s neighbor
- 23 Looney comedian Jerry

DOWN

- 1 Son of Russian immigrants, Ben on Bonanza
- 2 Like a Rolling Stone
- 3 Young Frankenstein
- 4 Piano Man Billy
- 6 Radner of SNL
- 9 Singer and melancholy
- 10 Wind Beneath My Wings singer
- 11 City of New Orleans songwriter Steve
- 13 Groucho, Harpo, Chico, Zeppo
- 16 The Way We Were singer
- 18 Annie Hall’s boyfriend
- 20 Classical pianist and 50s pundit Oscar
- 21 Bogie’s girl

The Klezmatics Announce New Album Out May 1 and US Tour



Credit: Adrian Buckmaster, design Anna Nikolaenko.

Today, the Grammy-winning Yiddish band The Klezmatics shared their version of Woody Guthrie’s ever relevant “Plane Wreck at Los Gatos (Deportee)” featuring Grammy nominated vocalist, songwriter and producer Sofia Rei. It’s the second single from their upcoming new album We Were Made For These Times, due out May 1 via Shamus Records, label arm of TRO Essex Music Group.

Originally written by Guthrie to restore names and dignity to migrant workers reduced to ‘deportees,’ the song remains a powerful act of remembrance, which The Klezmatics’ version carries forward to the present moment. Surviving as one of his most enduring protest anthems, the track has previously been covered by legends of the folk tradition, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Arlo Guthrie to name a few, and now, The Klezmatics and Sofia Rei have come together to revisit and reframe

the track across their shared musical traditions. The reimagined version of “Deportee” features trilingual lyrics (English/Yiddish/Spanish) that amplify the cross-cultural impact of the song’s everlasting themes of immigration and workers’ rights. The Klezmatics didn’t approach ‘Deportee’ as a cover, they approached it as a responsibility. Nearly 80 years later, the song keeps returning to the moment we’re living in, with renewed urgency.

Band member, vocalist, accordionist, guitarist, and pianist, Lorin Sklamberg expands “I’ve been singing Woody’s songs since I was a kid, since my mom won a copy of one of his albums of children’s songs in a radio contest. I’ve known ‘Deportee’ for a long time - I never imagined that an 80-year-old song would mean so much more in these challenging times.” Rei adds “Collaborating with The Klezmatics, with their deep sense of history and musical cour-

age, felt like weaving many strands of resistance into a shared voice across cultures and borders. Today, ‘Deportee’ asks us to break the silence around human stories and to hear migrants not as statistics, but as fellow travelers on this shared earth.”

The accompanying live video showcases the band and Rei’s time in the studio creating their stunning rendition of “Deportee,” with an additional video featuring Nora Guthrie exploring the historical weight of the track and its startling connection to our current days.

Next month, The Klezmatics will be heading on tour for live dates across the country, hitting New York, Washington D.C., Chicago, and more.

Drawing from protest songwriters such as Woody Guthrie, Holly Near, Dovid Edelstadt, and Chaim Zhitlovsky, We Were Made For These Times addresses migration, labor, war, belonging, and collective responsibility. Its title track, inspired by Dr. Clarissa Pinkola Estés’ Letter to a Young Activist During Troubled Times, carries the album’s central affirmation: do not lose heart, we were made for these times.

Joining The Klezmatics on the album are Argentine vocalist Sofia Rei, gospel powerhouse Joshua Nelson, the pioneering Lavender Light Gospel Choir, Crimean Tatar guitar virtuoso Enver Izmaylov, jazz visionaries William Parker and James Brandon Lewis, Janis Siegel of The Manhattan Transfer, and the Colombian percussion collective La Manga. Together, they create a sound that moves fluidly between Yiddish song, Black gospel, Latin American rhythms, avant-garde jazz, and diasporic memory.

The visual language is integral to the project. The album artwork adopts a bold protest-poster aesthetic inspired by hand-carved linocuts, centered around symbolic hand gestures – reaching, resisting, blessing, building. Each single extends this visual vocabulary, creating

a cohesive body of work where image and music reinforce one another. The result is not only a recording, but a unified artistic statement.

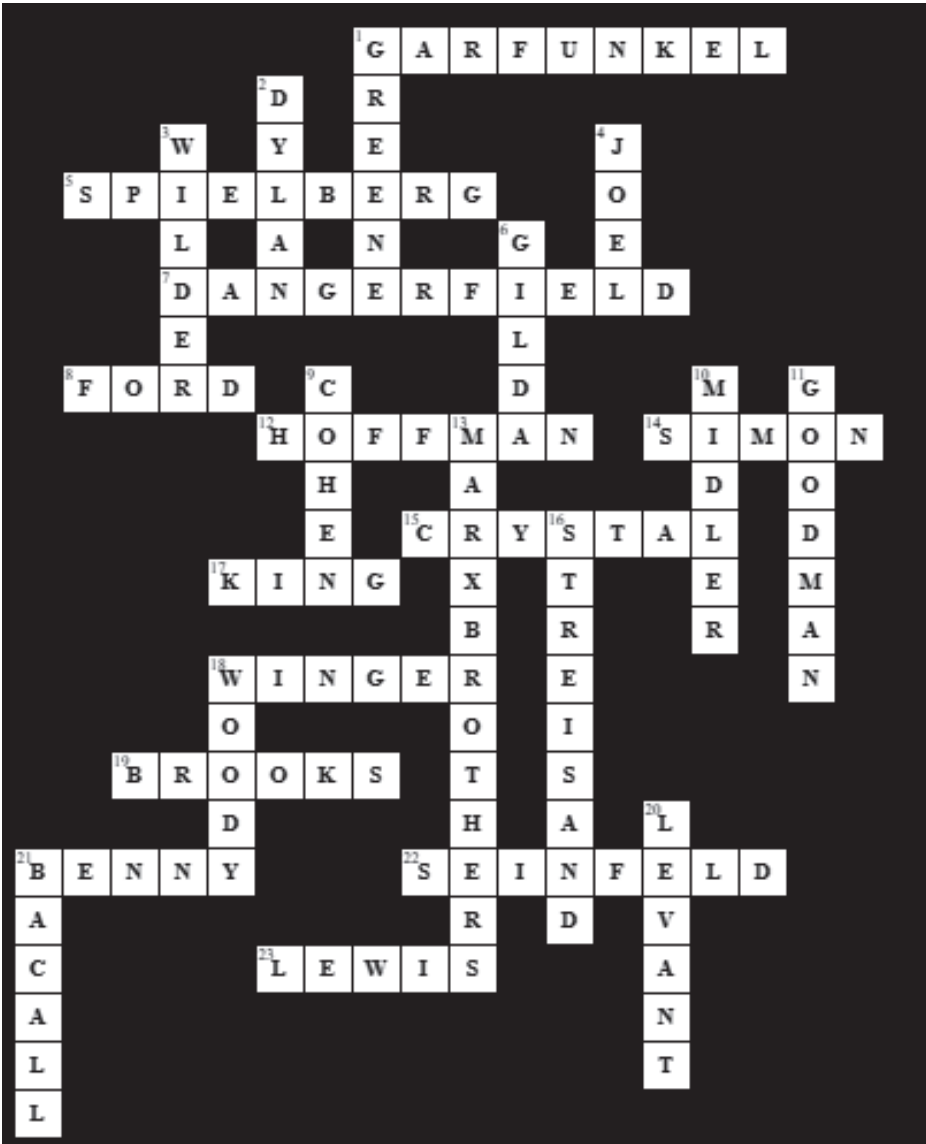
Released globally on May 1, International Workers’ Day, the album affirms what The Klezmatics have embodied for four decades: that music can protest, comfort, unite, and still insist on joy. For their whole career, The Klezmatics have stood at the forefront of global roots music, transforming klezmer from a preserved tradition into a fearless contemporary language. Emerging from New York City’s East Village in 1986, they fused Yiddish song with punk energy, gospel intensity, jazz improvisation, and global rhythms, creating music that is joyful, defiant, and profoundly human.

They remain the only klezmer band ever to win a Grammy Award, earning Best Contemporary World Music Album for Wonder Wheel - Lyrics by Woody Guthrie, produced by Danny Blume. Over the years, they have released 13 acclaimed recordings and toured five continents, performing at major halls and festivals including Town Hall, Disney Hall, Carnegie Hall, WOMAD, Colours of Ostrava, Pohoda, Yiddish Summer Weimar, Central Park SummerStage, Pirineos Sur and Yidstock.

Their work has crossed into theater, film, dance, and television, from Tony Kushner’s A Dybbuk and the Pilobolus Dance Theatre to PBS Great Performances and HBO’s Sex and the City. Millions have encountered their ecstatic live energy through NPR broadcasts and widely shared sessions such as KEXP, WWOZ and NPR’s Tiny Desk.

As they enter their fifth decade, The Klezmatics continue to push the genre forward while honoring its roots. Their music channels rhythm, justice, humor, and spiritual fire, insisting that tradition is not about preservation, but participation. **HW**

Crossword Answers from Page 9



Trump Administration Fires 2 Judges Who Blocked Deportations of Pro-Palestinian Activists

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – The Trump administration alst Friday fired two judges who blocked the deportations of international students involved in pro-Palestinian activism.

One of the judges, Roopal Patel, a Boston immigration court judge, oversaw the Trump administration’s immigration case against Rümeyssa Öztürk, a Turkish Tufts University doctoral student who was detained by ICE agents on the street in Somerville last March.

In February, Patel found there were no grounds to deport her, following a months-long legal battle with the Trump administration and opposition to her arrest from Jewish students and groups.

The other judge fired last Friday, Nina Froes of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, blocked the deportation of Mohsen Mahdawi, a pro-Palestinian student activist at Columbia University and green card holder from the West Bank, in February.

Froes told the New York Times that she had “fully expected” her firing and said she was unsure if ruling against Mahdawi could have changed the outcome.

“I don’t know what’s in the minds of other people,” Froes said. “But I can’t imagine it was helpful.”

The firings of the judges come as the Trump administration has dismissed over 100 immigration judges and hired more than 140 permanent and temporary judges seen as more aligned with the president’s immigration agenda, according to the New York Times.

The detentions of Mahdawi and Öztürk last year were part of a broader immigration crackdown by the Trump administration on non-citizens who had participated in campus pro-Palestinian protests that drew allegations of antisemitism.

Many of those detained as part of the crackdown were later shielded from immediate removal after judges blocked the federal government’s attempts to deport them, including Mahmoud Khalil, the Columbia graduate and protest leader.

Last Friday, the Board of Immigration Appeals denied Khalil’s bid to dismiss his deportation case, which remains ongoing. (Khalil called the board “biased and politically motivated” following the ruling.)

Last month, the last person still detained in the Trump administration’s crackdown on pro-Palestinian campus protests, Leqaa Kordia, was released from ICE custody. **HW**



In 2027, Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab (MJHR) will celebrate 100 years of serving patients. In honor of this accomplishment and all the people who made it possible, we are telling 100 of their stories. Over the next two years, we will publish 100 Stories for 100 Years – a weekly column spotlighting resident, staff, and lay leader stories with the Home from throughout our history. This week, we are sharing words from one of our past presidents, Dr. Jay Cohen.

Meet Dr. Jay Cohen



Jay Cohen

By Shoshana Cenker

MJHR: Tell us about yourself (hometown, education, family, hobbies, career).

My mother-in-law says I’m “almost a Memphian;” I’ve been living here for 41 years. I grew up in Long Island; my parents were very involved in the Jewish community and teaching me about tzedakah from the time I was 2 years old — I was very fortunate to be in that type of environment.

I went to then-C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, then Washington University in St. Louis, and medical training at Duke University. I moved to Memphis for a job; I’d known some people in the medical field. Within a year, I fell in love with and married a fabulous young lady, Hallie. We have two kids. Our daughter lives in Asheville, and our son moved back to Memphis a couple years ago because of the Jewish community, the friendships, and all the people he grew up with. We have two grandkids.

I’m an adult and pediatric endocrinologist. Memphis continues to be a joy, and being part of this community is a privilege. I’ve been involved in a variety of different parts of our community, including the Memphis Jewish Federation Board for 30 years.

My wife and I have been very in-

involved in the Jewish community. She was president of numerous organizations in Memphis; it was really a wonderful collaboration. She passed away six years ago from ovarian cancer. I found I was totally embraced by the Jewish community who helped me through the whole process.

Some people say I’m a Renaissance Man. I paid for medical school with my artwork: paintings and drawings. Now I typically donate my art. One of my art pieces is outside the Nosh-A-Rye Deli at the Home. I did a six-panel piece with my dad that’s hanging in my house. I have pieces in about five institutions as part of permanent collections. I was making a living when I was 14 years old doing this stuff. I also enjoy traveling, photography, being with family and friends, and got to do more cooking during COVID.

MJHR: How did you become connected to MJHR?

After a few years of board service, Jeff Bronze approached me about becoming president of the board. That was a time of tremendous change – the Home was having financial issues, and it had just started the rehab center. During my presidency in 2008, we changed the name from the Memphis Jewish Home to the Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab, which came with some controversy; some board members didn’t want the name change. But, we were the premier five-star nursing home rated by Medicare in this part of the country, and we were starting to do more and more rehab, but a lot of people didn’t know about our rehabilitation center yet. Although there was a risk in changing the name, we felt it was an opportunity to grow and extend what our mission was but also help grow economically and allow us to have multiple revenue streams to help us survive and to thrive.

I think everybody’s happy now about how things happened. I wanted to do things differently when I was president. It’s all about love and doing good things in the community to help our communi-



Jay Cohen with MJHR board members, Bill Weiss and Michael Alpert, at recent Annual Meeting.

ty flourish, not just now, but for generations to come.

MJHR: Share your favorite MJHR story.

Myself and Joan Weiss, who’s extremely generous, started an art auction fundraiser. We felt the Golf Tournament, which is wonderful, didn’t connect to everyone, not everyone is into golf. We knew we had to find ways to help the Home survive and thrive. We had a whole evening, we called it Home is Where the Art Is. It was a huge success! People from all over the community came, we had multiple artists from all over the country who showed their works, and people bought their art. All the proceeds went to the Home. These galas also brought art into the Home, and it brings such joy and smiles to the people who live and work there. We did that art fundraiser for three years, and it created community between the people who live at the Home and the people who support the Home.

MJHR: What do you wish for the future 100 years of the organization?

I hope that this 100th anniversary sparks innovation to continue to find ways to provide the best caring for the community. There will be new needs – whether it’s independent living, memory care, and all different ways to provide care – to allow innovation to create new opportunities to care for people.

MJHR: Anything else you’d like to share about the Home?

The staff is family. The board becomes a family. And I love that there are very few organizations that have people still involved even after they’re no longer on the board. We still feel a connection, still understand and want to help with future success.

Bobby Meadows’ leadership style lends itself to our community, and our community lends itself to Bobby’s growth. I think it’s a two-way situation. I’d love for Bobby to do some leadership training courses in our community – figuring out how to transmit that leadership style would be great.

Our board has very few people under 50. I would love to figure out ways to find young leadership to get more involved in the Home.

Memphis Jewish Home & Rehab is a not-for-profit nursing home, Jewish in character and environment, dedicated to providing the highest level of care possible with dignity, compassion, and professionalism. Only through the help of generous donors is the organization able to care for those in need. Find more information at www.memphisjewishhome.org/giving. **HW**

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He was Barred from Holding Shabbat Services in His House. Could the Supreme Court Take Up His Case?



The U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., is pictured on July 30, 2024. Credit: Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

By Grace Gilson

(JTA) – Orthodox Jewish groups urged the Supreme Court to take up the case of an Orthodox Jewish man ordered by officials in University Heights, Ohio, to stop hosting prayer services in his home without a permit.

The amicus brief, which was filed last Friday by the National Jewish Advocacy Center alongside the Orthodox Union and the National Council of Young Israel, comes years after Daniel Grand, a resident of the suburb of Cleveland, invited a group of Jewish men to his home for Shabbat services starting in January 2021.

At the time, University Heights, cit-

ing zoning laws, issued a cease-and-desist order blocking Grand from using his home for prayer.

Grand initially applied for a special use permit to use his home as “a place of religious assembly” in 2021, but later withdrew the application, saying he did not “wish to operate a house of worship as is defined under the zoning ordinance.”

According to the NJAC, the former mayor of University Heights, Michael Dylan Brennan, then encouraged Grand’s “neighbors to watch his home and report any sign of Jewish worship

to the authorities.”

“What happened to Daniel Grand is not an isolated incident,” Rabbi Mark Goldfeder, the CEO of NJAC, said in a statement. “It is the latest chapter in a long and documented history of municipalities using zoning laws to suppress Orthodox Jewish religious practice.”

The city’s current mayor, Michele Weiss, who was elected last fall, told JTA that there was currently one residence in the city that had obtained a special permit to host worship gatherings and that another was currently in the middle of applying for one.

“My perspective is that everyone has a right to worship in their home with a small group of people (a minyan) without city involvement, just like a book club might do,” Weiss, who is the first female Orthodox Jewish mayor in the United States, wrote in an email to JTA. “If a congregation wants to worship in a residence with a proper congregation, then each city should have a way forward through their planning commission.”

In September 2022, Grand filed a lawsuit against the city and Brennan, alleging that the former mayor was motivated by “animus against Orthodox Jews.” He maintained that the actions blocking him from conducting services in his home were part of a “systematic campaign” to prevent the Orthodox community from growing in Universi-

ty Heights, according to the Cleveland Jewish News.

In January, Weiss told JTA that University Heights’ Jewish community had grown a “tremendous amount” in recent years, and was the “largest Orthodox contingency of residents in the state of Ohio.”

Brennan, who was twice censured by the city council for “inappropriate language,” had faced criticism from the city’s Jewish community during his tenure. In November 2024, he drew backlash for criticizing voters in a heavily Jewish neighborhood who supported Donald Trump, and in April 2025, he accused the volunteer-run Jewish ambulance service Hatzalah of “jeopardizing public safety.”

In October 2024, the U.S. District Court of Northern Ohio ruled in favor of University Heights, and the Ohio 6th District Court of Appeals later upheld the ruling in November 2025.

A petition for Supreme Court review is currently pending, and a decision on whether it will be heard is expected in the coming months, according to NJAC.

“This case deserves Supreme Court review because, across the country, Jewish religious practice has repeatedly been constrained through the neutral application of rules in ways that disproportionately burden visible Jewish life,” David Benger, the litigation counsel at NJAC, said in a statement. [HW](#)

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